



IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

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May 26, 2011

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioners:

An important principle in our country is the right of individuals to organize together to achieve a common goal. Organized labor and collective bargaining are some of the more visible representations of this concept. However, according to the Department of Labor, only 6.9% of private sector workers today are unionized and we've seen far too many examples of workers' rights coming under attack in recent months.

Even as labor unions are criticized in Iowa and across the United States there is at least one company—AT&T—that is committed to working with unions in the telecommunications sector. The proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will ultimately be good for Iowa's economy and, more importantly, our workers. Currently, AT&T is the only major wireless company that is unionized. The Communications Workers of America (CWA) represent 42,000 AT&T mobile employees and an additional 104,000 employees that work on the "wire line" side of the company. The T-Mobile employees that are acquired by AT&T will have the opportunity to join the union and receive CWA representation. At this point, T-Mobile and their parent company Deutsche Telecom are not willing to unionize their American workforce.

The acquisition will also provide a much needed boost to the broadband speed and networks in America. Rural parts of the country, particularly those in Iowa, will receive the type of high-speed Internet connection they deserve. This technology will provide countless opportunities to reach out to new markets and create meaningful opportunities to individuals, families, and businesses in traditionally underserved areas.

When the time comes, I hope you will join me in supporting this merger. AT&T has a long history of progressive labor policies which ensure employment security and a voice for thousands of American workers. I strongly believe that this merger will benefit workers in Iowa and across the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Sagar, President

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